

PAPILIO HICETAON, n. sp.

Male.—*Upperside* deep olive-brown: *primaries*, an oblique row of nine spots from apex to inner margin, the spot contiguous to inner margin greenish yellow, the remainder paler; a submarginal row of five small pale-yellow spots between subcostal, discoidal, and first and second median nervules; two small spots outside upper end of cell, and another larger spot beyond, near the apex; the cell contains six spots and streaks, at the base a long oblique streak pointing towards the apex, next a minute perpendicular dash, this is followed by two narrow subrescens-shaped spots near subcostal nervure, and at end of cell two spots, the upper irregular in shape, the lower oval, all these spots yellow with the exception of basal streak which is pale green: *secondaries*, basal half light brown, dotted with golden-brown atoms, the rest deep velvety brown, the nervules paler; a small suboval and slightly raised patch of scales at upper end of cell; inner margin and base thickly clothed with fine golden-brown hairs. *Underside*: *primaries*, same as above, but spots paler, and row of submarginal spots extends to inner margin; a small crimson streak at base: *secondaries*, a large and somewhat square-shaped pale-green spot at base, bisected by subcostal nervure and bordered outwardly by black and crimson; an opalescent lunule with dusky pupil at upper end of cell; a discal band of dusky lunules, bordered below with some metallic-blue atoms, the lunule at anal angle edged above with crimson atoms; apex with marginal patches of opalescent atoms; fringes reddish.

The primaries are narrow, and the costa is much arched.

Exp. 100 millim.

Hab. Ugi, Solomon Islands.

Near *P. browni*, but quite distinct.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XXXIV.

Fig. 1. *Papilio erskinei*, ♀, p. 348.

2. — *bridgii*, ♀, p. 349.

3. *Argyrozymphe ugiensis*, ♂, p. 347.

4. — *pulchra*, ♀, p. 347.

6. Notes on some Birds from Perak. By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Zoological Department, British Museum.

[Received June 15, 1886.]

Thanks to the exertions of Mr. Davison, who explored the western side of the Malayan peninsula, we have a tolerably complete list of the birds of this portion of the Indian Region, and a list of his collections has been given by Mr. Hume ('Stray Feathers,' 1879, pp. 37, 151). The series of Malayan birds in the Hume Collection, now in the British Museum, is an extremely valuable one, and it is

to be regretted that Mr. Davison was never able, through political obstacles, to reach the mountains on the eastern side of the peninsula and explore the high ridge or "backbone" which runs down its entire length. Considerable speculation has been excited respecting the fauna of these Malayan mountains, because all the collections hitherto made in Malacca have proved that, as regards the birds, there are very few species which are not common to Borneo, Sumatra, and the Malayan peninsula. Sumatra, however, has always enjoyed a certain distinction from possessing at least one genus, *Psilopogon*, peculiar to itself; and, again, in the mountains several Himalayan genera have been found with species identical with, or only slightly differing from, those which occur in the Eastern Himalayas and extend down the mountains of Tenasserim. Many Malayan species range into the southern portions of the last-named province; but as regards the Himalayan genera, such as *Niltava*, *Liothrix*, *Pnoëpyga*, *Sibia*, &c., all traces of them are lost after leaving Tenasserim until they turn up again in Sumatra.

Many prognostications have been made that when the mountains of the Malayan peninsula were explored, the above-named genera and many others common to the mountains of Tenasserim and Sumatra would be found to extend along the eastern side of Malacca; but of this the first actual proof has been furnished by Mr. L. Wray, who has sent a small parcel of birds from the mountains of Perak to the British Museum. Although so few in number, the revelations which they disclose are of the greatest value, for they show that in Perak, at least, and probably throughout the mountain-range, there is a curious mixture of Himalayan and high-Sumatran forms. Thus the *Psilopogon*, hitherto supposed to be a peculiar Sumatran genus, is accompanied by *Rhinocichla mitrata* (*Ianthocinclla mitrata*, auct.), another species hitherto believed to be confined to Sumatra; and the *Sibia* is also the Sumatran *S. simillina*, and not *S. picta*. The affinities of the Perak species being therefore so markedly Sumatran, it is not a little surprising to find that the *Mesia* is *M. argentauris* of the Himalayas, and not *M. laurinae* of Sumatra as one would have expected.

The following is a list of the specimens sent by Mr. Wray, who informs us that they were mostly obtained at an elevation of 3000 feet, and that his native collector, after an experience of 30 years' work, had not met with some of the species before.

Fam. MUSCICAPIDÆ.

NILTAVA GRANDIS, Hodgs.; Sharpe, Cat. B. iv. p. 404.

"No. 11. Male. Irides red; legs and feet nearly black; beak black. The female is brown, with a blue spot on each shoulder and a patch of ash under neck; head blackish and slightly glossed with blue. Specimens obtained at 4000 feet."

Compared with males from Sikhim and Tenasserim in the Hume Collection, and apparently identical in every respect.

RHINOCICHLA MITRATA (S. Müll.); Sharpe, Cat. B. vii. p. 452.

Ianthocincla mitrata, Bp. Consp. i. p. 371.

"No. 12. Males. Irides brown; beak orange; legs yellow; skin under eye pure white. Common above 3000 feet."

Two specimens sent, identical with others in the Museum from Sumatra, to which island the species has hitherto been supposed to be confined.

Fam. TIMELIIDÆ.

HYDROCICHLA RUFICAPILLA (Temm.); Sharpe, Cat. B. vii. p. 319.

Henicurus ruficapillus, Temm. Pl. Col. iii. pl. 534.

"No. 17. Female. Irides brown; legs nearly white; beak black; Rocky streams in the jungle on the hills."

Agrees with the females of this species as described by Messrs. Hume and Davison.

SIBIA SIMILLIMA (Salvad.); Sharpe, Cat. B. vol. vii. p. 402.

Heterophasia simillima, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. xiv. p. 232.

"No. 13. Female. Iris brown; beak black; legs plumbeous. Flies about among the tops of trees in parties of from 20 to 30. Above 3000 feet."

The two specimens sent agree precisely with a Sumatran example in the British Museum collected by Mr. Carl Bock.

MESIA ARGENTAUROS, Hodgs.; Sharpe, Cat. B. vii. p. 642.

"No. 10. Female. Iris brown; feet and beak of same colour as throat of female. Male bird has red under tail-coverts; throat orange. From the hills of Perak over 3000 feet. Flies about in small parties of 10 or 12."

The female sent is absolutely identical with Himalayan specimens, and the note given by Mr. Wray as to the colouring of the male also suits the Himalayan bird and does not agree with the Sumatran *M. laurincæ*, Salvad. (Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. xiv. p. 231), which is the species one would have expected to find along with *Sibia simillima*.

Fam. CAPITONIDÆ.

PSILOPOGON PYROLOPHUS, S. Müll.; Marshall, Monogr. Capit. p. 133, pl. 53.

"No. 14. Male and female. Iris brown; legs dull green; bare skin under eye green. On the hills over 3000 feet."

This species has only been recorded from Sumatra up to the present time.

Fam. ALCEDINIDÆ.

CARCINEUTES PULCHELLUS (Horsf.); Sharpe, Monogr. Alced. p. 251, pl. 96.

"No. 16. Male. Irides white; bare skin under eye pale brown;

beak crimson-red. Had just caught and partly eaten a large spider."

Fam. TROGONIDÆ.

HARPACTES DUVAUCELI, Temm.; Gould, Monogr. Trogon. 2nd ed. pl. 40.

"No. 15. Male. Irides brown; bill pure cobalt-blue. Hills up to about 2000 feet."

7. Notes on Specimens in the Hume Collection of Birds.

By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S. &c.

[Received June 18, 1886.]

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No. 2. On some *Rose-Finches*.

In 1881 Colonel Biddulph (Ibis, 1881, p. 156, pl. vi.) noticed the differences between the large Rose-Finches of Yarkand and those of the Gilgit district, in which he had been resident for some time, and named the former bird *Propasser rhodometopus*. Having lately had occasion to examine the series of Rose-Finches in the Hume Collection, I was able to discriminate the *P. rhodometopus* of Biddulph as distinct from *P. rhodochlamys* of Indian authors, from the Himalayas. The two species are very nearly allied, but the Yarkand bird has silvery pointed feathers on the forehead, which the Himalayan bird has not.

At the same time Colonel Biddulph has, I believe, fallen into an error in his identification of the true *P. rhodochlamys* of Brandt, which was described from the Altai Mountains, and appears to me to be identical with the Yarkand bird, but not with *P. rhodochlamys* (so-called) from the Himalayas.

Brandt in his original description (Bull. Phys.-Math. Acad. Sci. St. Pétersb. 1843, p. 363) distinctly says "*Pennæ frontales, verticis, gutturis &c. acuminatæ*;" and this seems to point undoubtedly to the species afterwards called *P. rhodometopus* by Biddulph. Consequently the Himalayan species must require a separate designation, which is forthcoming in *Propasser grandis* (Blyth, J. A. S. Beng. xviii. p. 810).

Mr. Seebohm has lent me specimens of *Carpodacus rubicillus* from the Caucasus, and on comparing them with examples of so-called *C. rubicillus* from Turkestan and Yarkand, which have the back almost entirely uniform, and narrow black shaft-streaks on the under tail-coverts, I find that the two species are not identical.